

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Our Commonwealth's continuing efforts to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency and sustainability in buildings give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound; and

Whereas Our building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, laborers and others in the construction industry work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings; and

Whereas These guardians, dedicated members of the International Code Council, develop and implement the highest-quality codes to protect Bay Staters in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship and play; and

Whereas Modern building safety codes, energy and fire prevention codes, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states; these modern building codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires and earthquakes, and

Whereas "Building Safety Month: An International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures" the theme for Building Safety Month 2012, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safety; green and sustainable building; pool, spa and hot tub safety; and new technologies in the construction industry; and

Whereas Each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments and federal agencies in protecting lives and property,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 2012, to be

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of May, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An International Celebration
of Safe and Sensible Structures



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

— INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL FOUNDATION —

MAY 2012

Proclamation

Building Safety Month - May, 2012

Whereas, our state's continuing efforts to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency and sustainability in the built environment that affect our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound, and;

Whereas, our confidence is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, laborers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

Whereas, these guardians—dedicated members of the International Code Council—develop and implement the highest-quality codes to protect Americans in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship, play, and;

Whereas, the International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety, energy and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states; these modern building codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires and earthquakes, and;

Whereas, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council and International Code Council Foundation, to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown guardians of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings, and;

Whereas, "Building Safety Month: An International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures" the theme for Building Safety Month 2012, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safety; green and sustainable building; pool, spa and hot tub safety; and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2012, encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe and sustainable, and recognizes that countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies, and,

Whereas, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel P. Walsh, President of the Massachusetts Federation of Building Officials, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2012, as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

Daniel P. Walsh, C.B.O.

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for green and sustainable building



- 1 Heating and cooling uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in the home. Approximately 43% of utility bills cover heating and cooling.
- 2 Close curtains and shades at night to keep warmth in and keep them open during the day.
- 3 Try new lighting control technologies like motion-sensitive or timed off switch lighting. Using these new options can reduce lighting use by 50% – 75% and save the lighting portion of energy bills that account for 11% of overall household energy consumption.
- 4 Replace ordinary light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs. If every household replaced just one light bulb with a CFL bulb, America could save enough energy to light nearly three million homes.
- 5 Install a programmable thermostat to keep your home comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
- 6 Replacing windows can save between 7% and 24% of the household heating and air-conditioning costs.
- 7 Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips, and turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use as TVs and DVDs in standby mode still consume several watts of power.
- 8 Choosing energy-efficient products can save families approximately \$400 a year while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Choose ENERGY STAR® certified products when you buy or replace household appliances.
- 9 In the workplace, buy and use ENERGY STAR labeled office equipment, and other products. Be sure that the “stand-by mode” function is activated as this automatic “sleep mode” saves energy and money when the equipment is not in use.
- 10 Regularly change the filters in the heating and cooling system of your home or office as dirty filters can cost up to \$5 a month extra, overwork the equipment and result in dirtier indoor air. Consider purchasing “electrostatic” filters, which are washable, long lasting, and provide cleaner air. Clean or change filters more often if smokers or pollution sources are present.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy (www.eere.energy.gov/)

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for disaster safety and mitigation



- 1 Develop a family action plan and share with everyone in your family, so you will know where to go if an evacuation is called. Review at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood to a designated meeting place for your family. Plan ahead for your pets as many shelters will not accept them.
- 2 Create a disaster supply kit that will allow you to remain in your home after a disaster or for use after evacuating to a safer location. Be sure the necessities in your kit are fresh and restored every six months.
- 3 Stay tuned to radio, TV and NOAA Weather Radio for official updates and critical life saving weather information. Remember, reception is usually best if placed near a window.
- 4 Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet and two feet of water to move an SUV-sized vehicle.
- 5 If you live in a high wind or hurricane prone area and do not have tested and code approved shutters for protection from windborne debris, temporarily protect your doors and windows by mounting exterior grade, 5/8" minimum thickness plywood and fastening it into place. Visit www.flash.org for detailed instructions on how to use plywood for emergency board up.
- 6 Secure lawn furniture and any other loose outdoor items that can become windborne and can cause injury or damage during storms with high winds. Don't forget trash cans, grills, toys and potted plants.
- 7 Consider building or retrofitting to create a tornado safe room in your home. Follow ICC/NSSA 500 Standard for detailed construction information and to ensure you achieve the highest level of protection for your family.
- 8 Use Surge Protective Devices (SPD) in your home to protect electronic appliances from all but the most severe electrical surges or direct strikes. The devices should be installed to afford the highest level of protection.
- 9 In wildfire prone areas, remove fine (dead grass, leaves, etc.) and coarse fuels (dead twigs, branches, etc.) within 30 feet of a building to create a survivable space in case of wildfire. Be sure to remove dry leaf and pine litter from roofs, rain gutters, decks and walkways. Follow ICC's *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*® for detailed requirements.
- 10 Before a winter storm, insulate all exposed water pipes outside the home. It is important to allow a slow trickle of water to flow during a winter freeze especially if the faucet is on an exterior wall. Remember, wrap and drip your pipes for the ultimate protection in a freeze.

Get free advice and learn more about disaster safety for your family and home by visiting the non-profit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc-Flash® at www.flash.org or www.iccsafe.org consumer safety pages

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for fire safety and awareness



- 1 Install smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas and rooms and on each level of your home.
- 2 Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.
- 3 When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable – they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- 4 Test your smoke alarm each month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- 5 Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- 6 Install noncombustible 1/4 inch or smaller mesh screening on attic/soffit vents and around elevated wood decks to keep out embers. Install approved or listed spark arrestors on chimneys of solid fuel or liquid fuel burning appliances.
- 7 Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.
- 8 Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
- 9 Maintain a “defensible” space around your home by clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around all structures. Clear dead leaves and branches to leave widely spaced ornamental shrubbery and trees.
- 10 Plant fire prone trees and shrubs away from your home and far enough apart so they won’t ignite one another.

Source: USFA (www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/fswy11.pdf), FLASH www.flash.org

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for backyard safety



Pool & Deck Safety

- 1 Make sure all gates in the isolation fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching.
- 2 Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool isolation fence.
- 3 Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- 4 All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or gate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings.
- 5 Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.
- 6 Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- 7 Check for warning signs for an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

Grill Safety

- 8 Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. It is also unsafe to use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can catch on fire.
- 9 When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
- 10 Keep children away from fires and grills. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.

Source: ICC <http://www.iccsafe.org/safety/Pages/Backyard.aspx>, ABC Pool Safety (www.abcpoolsafety.org/), NFPA www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/docs/SB-FirePreventionProgramSummerGrillArt.pdf

SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector

The Sound of Safety

What is the most important thing to remember when installing a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm?

Location, location, location!

Smoke Alarm Safety:

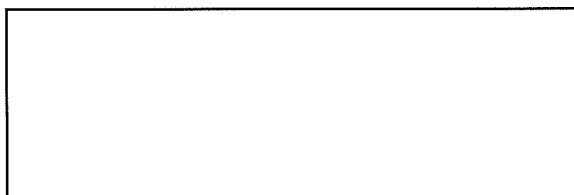
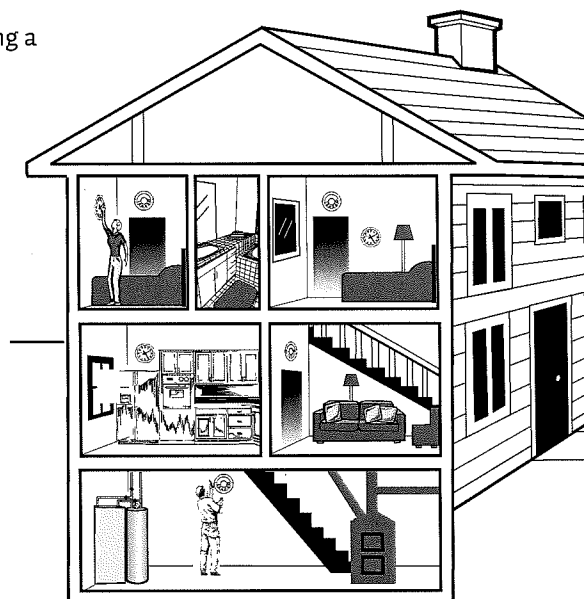
- Install at least one smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping room area and on each level of a multi-level building.
- Test each smoke alarm regularly.
- Keep batteries fresh by replacing them annually.

Smoke alarms can't help you unless they are functional and you can hear them. Building safety codes require smoke alarms. Contact your local building safety department for more information.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Safety:

- Install a CO alarm in the hallway outside of each sleeping room area.
- Test each CO alarm regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Permanently wired or plug-in CO alarms should have a battery backup. Keep batteries fresh by replacing them annually.

CO alarms can't help you unless they are functional and you can hear them. Building safety codes require CO alarms in all dwelling units that contain a fuel-fired appliance and dwelling units that have an attached garage. Contact your local building safety department for more information.



SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector

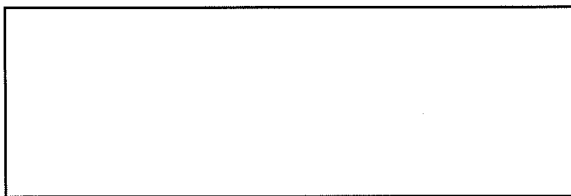
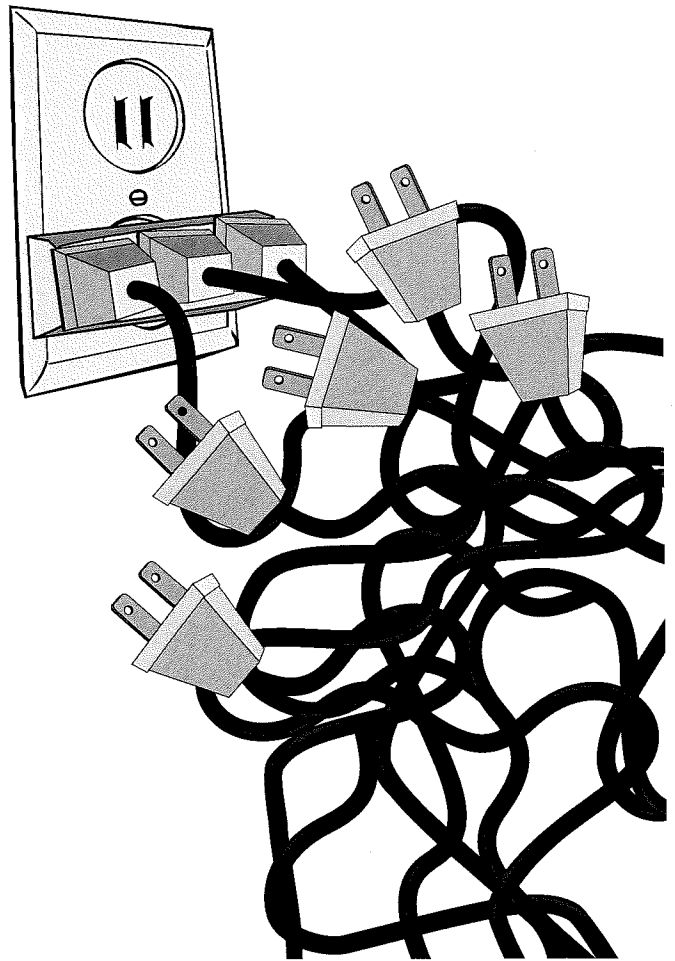
Don't Let Electrical Cords Create a Danger in Your House!

Overloaded outlets and undersized electrical extension cords can cause a fire or electrocution danger.

Use Electrical Cords Safely:

- Never overload electrical cords or power strips. Electrical cords and power strips have a designated load capacity. Be sure the total amount of energy used by appliances and lights plugged into the strip does not exceed that capacity.
- Use only listed power strips that have integral overload protection and have been tested by a product safety laboratory.
- Don't use appliances that have damaged cords.
- Extension cords should not be used as a substitute for permanently wired outlets.

Electrical cords must be the proper wire size for the load they serve. Overloaded cords will become hot and can start a fire. Avoid permanent use of extension cords. Appliance cords and extension cords are susceptible to physical damage from foot traffic, furniture, house pets, swinging doors and many other causes so protect them from damage. Contact your local building safety department for more information.



SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector

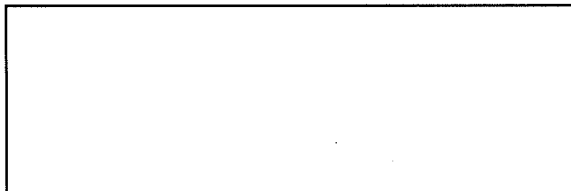
Do I Need a Permit for My Home Project?

Check with your local building safety department before beginning home-improvement projects. Requirements vary, but many building safety departments require permits for home-improvement projects, including electrical, mechanical, structural or plumbing work. As a result of getting a permit, an inspector will check the work. Inspections provide a measure of safety to protect your life and property.

Projects That Usually Require Permits:

- Re-roofing
- Installing electrical outlets
- Replacing windows
- Remodeling kitchens or bathrooms
- Installing a pool, spa or hot tub
- Building an addition, including seasonal rooms
- Installing appliances and replacements such as furnaces, boilers, water heaters, fireplaces and space heaters
- Building a tall fence—over 6 feet in height

If you are planning to make home improvements, contact your local building safety department to find out what building safety code provisions apply in your area and if you need a permit.





SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector

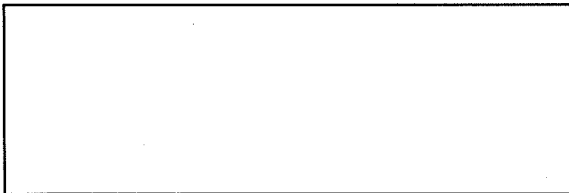
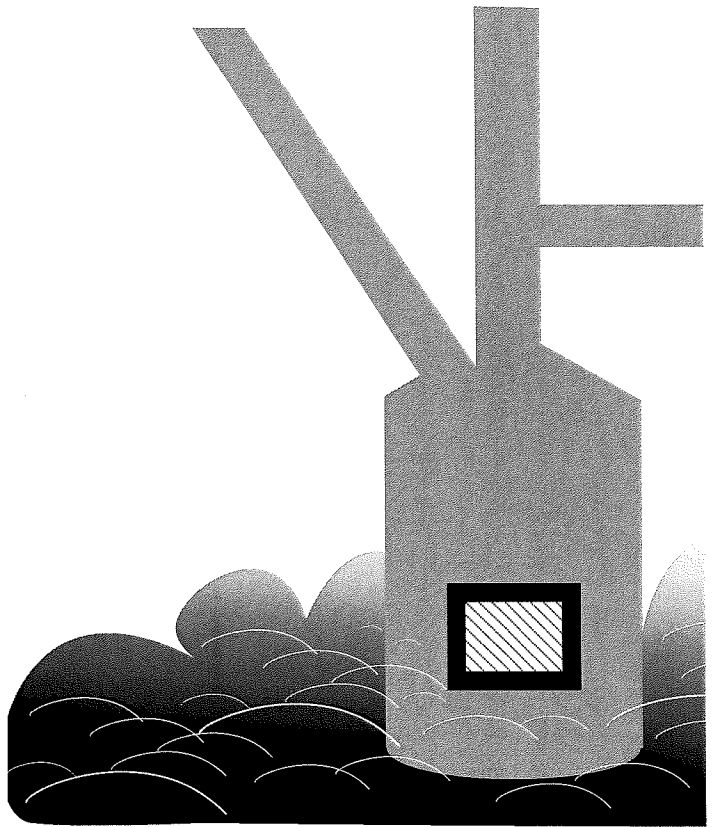
Don't Let Your Gas Appliances Starve for Air!

Gas appliances, such as water heaters, furnaces and boilers, need plenty of air to operate safely. Otherwise they will produce excessive, deadly carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and toxic, which means you can't see, taste or smell it. It causes headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. Carbon monoxide can kill, so be sure to maintain your gas appliances.

Safely Operate Your Gas-Fired Appliances:

- Schedule an annual appliance inspection, cleaning and tune-up by a qualified specialist.
- Have vents and chimneys inspected by a qualified expert at least once a year.
- Have a technician check the combustion air provisions for your appliances.
- Store combustibles and flammables far away from gas appliances.

Building safety codes require specific venting sizes and combustion air provisions for gas appliances to ensure safe operation. Contact your local gas company or building safety department for more information.



SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector

Make a Safe Exit

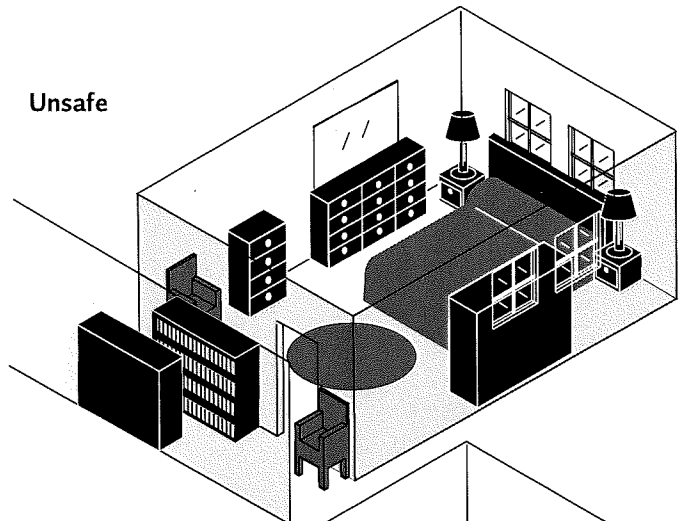
During a home emergency, such as a fire, it's important that all occupants are able to get out—and emergency personnel are able to get in—as quickly and easily as possible.

Safe Exit Paths and Passages:

- Keep hallways clear of obstructions.
- Do not block or obstruct emergency escape windows and exit doors.
- Make sure all family members know how to unlock and open windows and doors.
- Be sure window security bars release from the inside in case of emergency.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it takes less than 30 seconds for a small flame to burn completely out of control and turn into a major fire. Within minutes, a house can fill with thick, black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Building safety codes designate minimum window and hallway sizes so occupants will be able to get out in case of emergency, and provide access for first responders to get in. Contact your local building safety department for more information.

Unsafe



Safe

